performing a protocol exchange transaction including selecting the protocol via a user interface and loading the protocol at the medical diagnostic location from the machine readable medium via a network connection to the medical diagnostic location; and

storing an accounting record of the transaction.

60. (New) The method of claim 59, wherein the accounting record includes data for invoicing fees associated with the protocol.

61. (New) The method of claim 59, comprising the further step of transmitting an authorization prompt to the medical diagnostic location prior to loading the protocol.

62. (New) The method of claim 59, comprising the further step of verifying a service subscription of the medical diagnostic location, the accounting record referencing the subscription.

63. (New) The method of claim 62, wherein the subscription verified includes data representative of a time expiring subscription.

64. (New) The method of claim 59, wherein the user viewable indicia include a textual description of the protocol.

65. (New) The method of claim 59, wherein the user viewable indicia include an exemplary image obtainable via the protocol.

66. (New) The method of claim 59, wherein the user viewable indicia are viewed at a computer workstation coupled to the medical diagnostic system

67. (New) The method of claim 59, wherein the protocol includes data for filming, viewing, reconstructing or processing images reconstructed from image data.

68. (New) The method of claim 59, wherein the network connection includes the Internet.

69. (New) A method for obtaining an operational protocol for a medical diagnostic system or institution, the method comprising the steps of:

ordering a protocol by viewing a protocol list on a user interface at the medical diagnostic system or institution, and selecting a desired protocol from the list;

performing a transaction by accessing data from a protocol library defining the desired protocol via a network link between the diagnostic system or institution and the library, and transmitting the data from the library to the diagnostic system; and

storing a record of the transaction.

70. (New) The method of claim 69, wherein the library includes protocols for a plurality of diagnostic system modalities, and wherein the protocol list includes only protocols for a modality of the medical diagnostic system.

71. (New) The method of claim 69, comprising the further step of transmitting data descriptive of the protocol to the medical diagnostic system for addition to the protocol list.

72. (New) The method of claim 69, comprising the further step of authorizing a fee for the protocol.

73. (New) The method of claim 69, wherein the network link includes the Internet.

74.   (New)   A system for providing operational protocols to a medical diagnostic station or institution, the system comprising:

at least one storage device for storing data defining a protocol, the protocol including data for controlling operation of the diagnostic station;

a messaging module in the diagnostic station or the institution for formulating messages containing data descriptive of a desired protocol; and

communications circuitry for establishing a network link between the diagnostic station or institution and a remote protocol provider, for transmitting data descriptive of the desired protocol, and for receiving a reply from the remote protocol provider.

75.   (New)   The system of claim 74, wherein the communications circuitry is configured to access the Internet and to transmit the data descriptive of the desired protocol in a message via the Internet.

76.   (New)   The system of claim 74, wherein the messaging module is provided on the medical diagnostic station.

77.   (New)   The system of claim 74, wherein the messaging module is provided on a computer wordstation networked to the medical diagnostic station within the institution.

78.   (New)   The system of claim 74, wherein the storage device is local to the remote protocol provider.

REMARKS

By the Preliminary Amendment filed with the present Application, claims 2-58 from the parent case were cancelled. By the present paper, claim 1 is cancelled and new claims 59-78 are added. Upon entry of the amendments only claims 59-78 will remain pending in the present Application. The new claims incorporate subject matter recited in